

Application No.: 10/501,806
Filing Date: July 20, 2004
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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please enter Amendments (A) through (D) provided below:

(A) Please insert the following headings and paragraph at Page 1, line 2 of the Application-as-filed, immediately preceeding the heading "Background of the Invention":

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is being filed under Rule 1.371 as a National Stage Application of pending International Application No. PCT/EP03/00334, filed January 15, 2003, which claims priority to the following provisional application: United States Patent Application No. 60/351,745 filed January 25, 2002.

(B) Please insert the following replacement section for the section beginning at Page 4, line 28 of the Application-as-filed, immediately following the heading "Detailed Description of the Invention":

In the preferred ~~embodiment~~ embodiment of the present invention, the transfer support web is comprised of a solid material such as polymer material having sufficient mechanical strength and heat resistance or the transfer film is comprised of a composite material of paper with a polymer layer on top or a metal foil or a composite material of metal and polymer film such as metallized polymer film.

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(C) Please insert the following replacement text for the text beginning at Page 6, line 20 of the Application-as-filed:

The device in its preferred ~~embodiment~~ embodiment is ~~much better~~ illustrated for the skilled artisan by means of the attached ~~picture of~~ drawing.

(D) Please insert the following replacement section for the section beginning at Page 6, line 25 of the Application-as-filed:

Especially, Fig. 1 shows the coating station 1, wherein the coating is applied onto the transfer support web, and the heating device 2, wherein the transfer support web coated with the coating is thermally treated. The heat treated transfer support web applied with the coating reach at the point "A" the lamination station comprising a big cooling drum 3. Simultaneously, an intermediate support material coming from a storage roll 8 is laminated with the coating at point "A". Before reaching point "A", the support layer is fixed with a strip of an adhesive ~~at the starting point~~ "B". After the cooling drum 3, separating rolls 4, 5, 6 and 7 are arranged. At the last separating roll 7 the transfer support web is separated from the product in web form. The product in web form comprising the intermediate support amterial and the coating is fed to a ~~an invisible~~ winding station (not shown), whereas the transfer support web reaches the regeneration station 9 where mechanical treatment and vacuum cleaning occurs. The ~~possible~~ recirculation of the regenerated transfer support web to the coating station 1 is shown in the right part of the picture, whereas the alternative of winding up and using again of the transfer support web is not illustrated in the picture.

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The present invention is a novel and economic method to produce products in web form, especially under cost ~~saving~~ saving conditions, since a minimum of waste material is caused due to the recirculation of the transfer support web. According to the prior praxis, all used transfer support web had to be disposed of as waste material.